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ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Tony Wood, Commissioner

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Arkansas' Advanced Placement Scores Increase in 2014

LITTLE ROCK – Arkansas students' overall Advanced Placement scores increased in 2014.

The number of AP exams with a score of 3 or higher (14,146) out of a possible 5 increased 6.4 percent, as compared to 6.6 percent for the nation. A score of 3 or higher is generally accepted for college credit at colleges around the country, saving students money on tuition.

"I want to congratulate these students for their hard work academically," said Tony Wood, Arkansas Department of Education commissioner. "Their efforts, along with the dedication of our teachers, are evident in these results."

According to College Board, the non-profit organization that provides SAT and AP assessments, the number of Arkansas public school students who took AP exams (25,547) increased by 4.9 percent, with the number of exams taken (44,424) increasing by 4.4 percent. Some students take more than one AP exam.

Because of Act 2152 of 2005, Arkansas became the only state in the nation that pays for AP exams, removing a financial barrier for students who are unable to take the exams because of cost.

Legislation also requires every public high school to provide an AP course in each of the four content areas (math, English, social studies and science). The most popular AP exams in Arkansas in 2014 were English language, English literature, U.S. history and world history. AP and Pre-AP teachers also are required to undergo training in their subject areas every five years.

Research has shown that students who take an AP class have a higher grade point average in college and are more likely to graduate. GPAs and graduation rates also increase for students who take the exam and receive a score of 3 or higher.

In addition to the AP data, College Board also announced that Arkansas' mean (or average) SAT scores in critical reading and mathematics increased slightly in 2014. A total of 924 public school students from the 2014 graduating class took the SAT, an increase of 3.2 percent. Most colleges and universities accept ACT and SAT assessments; however, a majority of Arkansas students take the ACT.

For more information about the scores, go to www.collegeboard.org.

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